



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BLMnews
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BURNS DISTRICT 28910 HWY 20 WEST HINES, OR 97738 (541) 573-4400 www.or.blm.gov/burns/

Release No.:

04-10

Contact:

Tara Wilson
(541) 573-4400

April 16, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESCRIBED BURNING TO OCCUR THROUGHOUT HARNEY COUNTY

Implementation of the spring prescribed burning program on the Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ) is scheduled to begin the week of April 18, 2004, and continue through the month of May, weather permitting.

According to BIFZ Fire Management Officer Mike Morcom, four projects are planned for prescribed fire treatment. The largest, a 1,700- acre pine underburn, will occur in Spring Canyon near Falls Campground, while 1,600 acres will be treated at Rimrock near Alison Guard Station, 1,100 acres in southwest Silvies Valley, and 1,000 acres at Blackrock.

Actual days of ignition for the spring burning projects will be determined by weather and fuel moisture conditions, and will occur by ground or aerial methods when conditions are favorable. A combination of firefighters from the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, United States Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management will conduct the burns with engines, handcrews, and a helicopter when needed for support. There may be noticeable smoke and increased traffic around project areas, and the public is asked to be aware of the activity and avoid the work sites as much as possible.

The BIFZ conducts a number of prescribed burns each year as part of its Prescribed Fire Burn Plan to reduce fuel loading and the risk of catastrophic large wildfires, increase forage for livestock and wildlife, and improve wildlife habitat, among others.

For further information on BIFZ prescribed burning, contact Ken Hagle (541) 573-4319 or Dan Ridenour (541) 573-4303, Prescribed Fire Managers, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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